

Application. No. 10/688,056
Amendment dated January 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence for a uniformly formatted phone number, the steps comprising:

a) providing a phone number database containing at least one telephone number having a predetermined, uniform format;

b) providing an updatable call result database comprising at least one of the fields: a dialing method to use, a count of dialing attempts, a count of dialing failures, and a count of successfully connected calls;

c) retrieving a phone number to be called from said phone number database;

d) selecting a potentially operable dialing sequence for dialing said retrieved phone number from a predetermined set of dialing sequences;

e) dialing said retrieved phone number using said selected dialing sequence thereby initiating a dialed call and automatically determining a result of said dialing operation;

f) automatically storing said result in a record of said call result database associated with said retrieved phone number;

g) automatically determining if said dialed call has been successfully connected; and

h) if said dialed call has not been successfully completed, using at least said result to automatically select another of said predetermined set of dialing sequences.

Claims 2 - 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein steps (e) through (h) are automatically repeated if said dialed call is not successfully completed.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 21, wherein said call result may be classified as one of the results: possible failure, certain failure, possible success, and certain success.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein said step (g) determining if said dialed call has been successfully connected is automatically performed using at least one of the qualifications: a voice response, and a DTMF key press.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 22, wherein said step (d) selecting a potentially operable dialing sequence comprises using information derived from at least one result of a previously dialed phone call previously automatically stored in said database during said storing step (f).

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 24, wherein when said call result is a certain success result, indicating that said selected one of said potentially operable dialing sequences is a correct dialing sequence for a phone call having an area code and an exchange matching an area code and an exchange of said retrieved phone call.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein said method is performed using at least one of the systems: a personal computer system, an embedded computer system, a PBX, and a distributed computing system.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein said dialed call is dialed on at least one of the communications systems: a land line, a wireless communications network, the Internet, and other telephonic telecommunications dialing system.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein said potentially operable dialing sequences comprise a dialing sequence associated with an alternate long distance service.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 28, wherein said dialing sequence associated with an alternate long distance service comprises a dialing prefix.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein after a predetermined number of dialing attempts return an unsuccessful dialing result, any indication of correctness of a dialing sequence for an area code and exchange associated with said dialed call is modified.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

- i) providing means for configuring whereby a preferred one of said set of potentially operable dialing sequences may be initially selected.

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Claim 32 (currently amended): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, the steps further comprising:

i) ~~means for~~ inputting an area code and associating at least one preferred dialing sequence therewith.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 32, wherein said inputting step (i) comprises inputting an exchange code.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 32, wherein said inputting step (i) comprises storing said inputted area code in said call results database.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method for determining a correct telephone dialing sequence as recited in claim 1, wherein said dialed call, upon successful connection, communicates at least one of the information types: voice, audio, fax, data, text, pictures, and video.